

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5010

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6615

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, UNGA, CI

SUBJECT: THIRD COMMITTEE -- ITEM 12, DRAFT RESOLUTION ON CHILE

REF: USUN 4557

1. WE HAVE READ WITH INTEREST THE EC9 DRAFT RESOLUTION ON CHILE CONTAINED REFTEL. IT SEEMS TO US TO BE RELATIVELY MODERATE AND TO CONTAIN ELEMENTS OF BALANCE. ACCORDINGLY, BASED ON OUTCOME OF UNESCO EXBD EXERCISE (PARIS 24072), WE BELIEVE THAT IN ITS PRESENT FORM IT COULD APPROPRIATELY BE SUPPORTED BY USDEL -- WE REPEAT, IN ITS PRESENT FORM. SHOULD CHANGES BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE VIEWS OF COMMUNIST AND LEFT-LEANING THIRD WORLDERS, POSITION AS SEEN FROM HERE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

2. WHILE WE APPRECIATE TACTICAL BENEFIT WHICH MIGHT BE GAINED BY COSPONSORSHIP AS SUGGESTED PARA 3 REFTEL, WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT A VERY SIGNIFICANT TRADE-OFF IS INVOLVED. COSPONSORSHIP IMPLIES NOT ONLY SUPPORT, BUT IDENTIFICATION WITH THE GUIDING FORCES BEHIND A GIVEN RESOLUTION. IN THE PAST WE HAVE ABSTAINED ON MOST RESOLUTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CHILE. SUPPORT FOR A MODERATE RESOLUTION WOULD IN ITSELF BE A CHANGE: COSPONSORSHIP OF ANY RESOLUTION ON CHILE WOULD SIGNAL TO THE CHILEANS
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AN EVEN SHARPER ALTERATION OF OUR VIEWS. IT SEEMS TO

US THAT SUBSTANTIVE LONGER-RUN DISADVANTAGE OF COSPONSORSHIP (IN TERMS OF OUR LEVERAGE AND ONGOING BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CHILE) WOULD OUTWEIGHT WHATEVER TACTICAL BENEFIT MIGHT BE GAINED BY COSPONSORSHIP.

3. RESOLUTION IS WRITTEN IN TERMS OF HAVING IN HAND PROGRESS REPORT OF UNHRC WORKING GROUP AND REPORT OF SECRETARY GENERAL. IF THESE DOCUMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COPIES SOONEST.

4. WE WOULD ADD ONE CAVEAT. BEFORE A FIRM DECISION IS TAKEN AS TO HOW USDEL SHOULD CAST ITS VOTE ON WHATEVER RESOLUTION ON CHILE FINALLY EMERGES, WE KNOW DEL WILL EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH CHILEAN DEL. WE THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE AN ELEMENT OF FLEXIBILITY UNTIL WE SEE HOW CHILEANS RESPOND TO ATTACKS ON THEM IN UNGA, HOW THEIR LATIN AMERICAN COLLEAGUES REACT, AND WHAT THE PROSPECTS ARE FOR RETAINING BALANCE AND MODERATION. WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW YORK.
POPPER

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